QUESTION FOR ANSWER ON THE DAY

(but not taken up).

Village Panchayet Election in Hassan District (Complaint against Revenue Authorities).

Q.—655. Sri K. PANCHAKSHARIAH (Arasikere).—

Will the Government be pleased to state :—

(*a*) whether there has been complaints that the village panchayet elections in Hassan District were not conducted as per rules ;

(*b*) the number of panchayets that have complained ;

(*c*) whether complaints have been made that in these elections the Revenue Inspectors and Revenue authorities were partial ?

A.—Sri T. CHANNIAH (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—

(*a*) Yes.
(*b*) 12.
(*c*) Yes.

Business of the House.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—Yesterday, I made a representation that the definite and final programme of legislative work may be given to us and Government may also intimate to us what Bills are going to [illegible]t priority. as the Leader of the House is here, it may be given.

Sri K. HANUMANTHAIYA (Chief Minister and Leader of the House).—The agenda is already supplied to the Hon'ble Members. I think that is definite. In the printed agenda all that has been shown. I think the Legislature Secretariat has supplied it. That is definite.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—Yesterday I said that the most important Bills that we have to deal with are the Local Boards Bill, the Finance Bill and the University Bill. We have not yet received copies of those Bills. I would like to know if the Government is going to take up those Bills and when the yare going to take them up, whether they will be taken up after the disposal of the financial Bills already circulated. Secondly, the present programme covers work up to the 19th of April. Will that be final or is the session going to be extended ?

Mr. SPEAKER.—That matter cannot be answered off-hand. The Government will take time to decide.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—He may reply tomorrow. I am making the suggestion to the Leader of the House, because he was not here.

NON-OFFICIAL BUSINESS.

Mysore Town Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Motion to introduce.

Sri M. LINGANNA (Nanjangud).—I move that leave be granted to introduce the Mysore Town Municipalities (Amendment) Bill, 1955.

Sri T. CHANNIAH (Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government).—Sir, the Government are intending to bring before this House a comprehensive amending Bill including the amendment to the Act now proposed by Sri M. Linganna. The Bill could not be introduced earlier and the Government intend introducing it during this session itself, if possible. We have already framed the Bill which has also been scrutinised. Therefore, I oppose the introduction of this private Bill by Sri M. Linganna.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM (Jagalur).—I would like to know the circumstances under which my friend has sought leave to introduce this amendment Bill and what are the difficulties. . . .

Mr. SPEAKER.—Not now.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—He can state why it should be introduced and the reasons that prompted him to bring this.

9-30 A.M.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Of course, he is not prevented or precluded from giving his reason but in the Statement of Objects and Reasons attached to the Bill it is given.

Sri J. MOHAMED IMAM.—Nothing is given there. It is said that it has resulted in certain anomalies in the Local Bodies. I would like him to give us some instances where it has resulted in anomalies.

Mr. SPEAKER.—What does the Hon'ble Member say ?

Sri M. LINGANNA.—I want to know whether the Government are introducing a comprehensive amending Bill during the session itself. In case they are going to introduce a Bill wherein my amendment, which is a simple and innocuous one, is also incorporated, I have no objection. I never thought that the Government would oppose this particular amendment.

Mr. SPEAKER.—The Government have not opposed it. The Government, intend to bring a comprehensive amending Bill including this subject and hence it will be a waste of time for the House to take up this amendment.

Sri M. LINGANNA.—I have no objection not to press this motion. But my fear is, the Government, having in hand so many pieces of legislation, may not be able to find time at all to take up this amending Bill. If they can give us an assurance that they would introduce a comprehensive Amendment Bill in this regard, I have no objection not to press this motion.

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO (Minister for Law and Education).—As I have already stated, the principle of this amendment has been accepted by the Government; but in accepting this principle, the Government are intending to bring a most comprehensive Bill working out the consequences also. So, in order to save time, this may not be taken up now and the matter may be considered later on.

Sri M. RAJASEKHARA MURTHY (Yelandur).—I want to know whether the Government want to bring the same amendment to the section ?

Sri A. G. RAMACHANDRA RAO.—Not the same amendment. But the principle underlying the amendment has been accepted.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION

re. **Message Rate System of Telepones.**

Mr. SPEAKER.—Then we will go to the next item, namely, Resolutions. With reference to the first resolution, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble mover of this special Resolution and the House that since the Government have accepted the principle and also promised to recommend this to the Central Government, we need not spend much time over this resolution. We may spend not more than half an hour.

*Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY (Chitaldrug).—Sir, I beg to move :

> "That this House taking note of the difficulties caused to the public in Bangalore City by the introduction of the message rate system of telephones from 16th March 1955 is of the opinion that the Government should strongly urge upon the Government of India to restore the system in vogue prior to 16th March 1955."

Sir, at the outset, I must thank the Chair for having given me this opportunity to move this important resolution. I realise that it is the sole and exclusive responsibility of the Government of India. But still the people in the State, particularly in places like Bangalore and other places, are experiencing certain difficulties. Sir, prior to 1951, telephone system in Mysore State was operated by the Government of Mysore. Owners of telephones or subscribers were paying a rental of Rs. 10 a month. Afterwards, this telephone system was integrated with the Posts and Telegraphs systems of the Government of India and after some time, the Government of India increased the rentals from Rs. 10 per month to Rs. 24 per month. Again, after some time, there was a great demand for telephones in Bangalore City. The Government of India introduced 'Own your telephone' system and many made use of that opportunity to get priority for telephones. Sir, from 16th March, the Government of India through their

Posts and Telegraphs Department have introduced this new message rate system, which means compulsorily the subscriber will have to pay Rs. 10 rental per month plus one rupee for every 12 calls he makes. Sir, this telephone system is now introduced to almost all district headquarters and many important taluk headquarters are also benefited by this system. And again, Sir, recently, a Telephone Exchange in Chitaldrug has been opened. What I am driving at is that this telephone system is doing very useful work. The usefulness of telephone is recognised for business purposes and for other social purposes. Sir, before this telephone system was integrated and before there was financial integration between the Government of India and the Govern ment of Mysore, Government had some other postal concessions. They were not paying for their use of postal facilities in the shape of affixing stamps, etc. The same facility and concession was given to the Members of the Legislature also. Whenever they wanted to correspond with the Government of Mysore on any public matter, they were allowed to correspond free of charge. All those concessions have been taken away by the Government of India. Sir, in Bangalore, there are about 3,000 telephones. The Government are operating about 400 to 500 telephones. Formerly, when this telephone system was operated by the Electrical Department and the Government of Mysore, the Government were not paying any rentals. If they were paying, it was only a book adjustment. All those concessions have been taken away and now after the introduction of the message rate system, I feel that this system is hampering the business growth and other important public work and it is going to be a great hit on social mobility. Sir, it is likely that the Government may argue that this system is in vogue in important cities like Calcutta or Bombay or Madras. There, Sir, the number of telephones runs to five digits. In Bangalore, we are having only 3,000 telephones though the demand for telephones is very large. In Calcutta or Bombay there may be more than 30,000 or 40,000 telephones and there they go to such proportions that the Department might have found it difficult to allow the use of telephones on simple rental basis. There they might have found it necessary to introduce the message rate system so that the use of the Telephones may be given to all those that want to use them instead of curtailing the right. But in Bangalore, where the use is limited to 3,000 telephones, this introduction of a new system is going to hamper business interests. They have also through their Chamber of Commerce protested to the Government of India against the introduction of this message rate system. For Governmental purposes also, this is going to hamper the work. For example, if a file is pending consideration before a Secretary or a Head of a Department, the Minister concerned may like to ask the Head of the Department in public interest to expedite the file. It may not be desirable to send a messenger. But if he can talk to the Head of the Department, he may explain the position and see that the matter is expedited. So by introduction of this message rate system, the Minister or the Head of the Department or any Secretary will have to think twice or ten times whether he should use the telephone or not. If he has to use the Telephone at every time he will have to make a note and give explanation as to why he has used that telephone. It is not like a private person owning a telephone. If a telephone is used by an Officer of the Government, he will have to make certain entries ; so much so, the use of the telephones may not be undertaken which may result in accumulation of files and not in expeditious disposal. Sir, I know, the other day, the Home Minister was pleased to say that complaints have been received and feelings have been expressed that the introduction of this system was going to hamper business interests to some extent and the Governmentof Mysore would make strong representation to the Government of India. We on this side

(SRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY.)

realising the difficult position wanted to strengthen the hands of the Government in tabling a special resolution like this. The opinion of the House will be expressed through this resolution so that the Government of Mysore may fight with the Government of India to see that normalcy is restored in this Department. Sir, the use of the telephone is resorted to mostly by newspaper offices, hospitals, business houses, railways, tourist offices and other institutions. Sir, in view of the handicaps and inconveniences that this system has caused to the public in Bangalore, I would earnestly urge the Government to make an impassioned and strong appeal to the Government of India to restore the original system. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER.—I want to know whether the Hon'ble Member has made enquiries in business circles and whether there is any difficulty experienced by business interests ?

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—I am glad, you have put that question to me, Sir. I have made enquiries and in many places the established business interests are used to 20 to 30 calls each day and it works out to Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 per day. That means Rs. 60 to 70 per month. Whereas before 16th March he was paying only Rs. 24 per month, now he has been obliged to pay 2 to 2½ times his original bill. That is going to hamper business interests. Many a time, many of the legislators will also feel the difficulty in the use of telephones, Sir, in the Crescent House where I am put up, we have been making use of the telephone and every time we use the telephone, we are obliged to pay Re. 0-1-4. Many a time, it will not be for personal purposes but for governmental purposes and for public purposes. Many a time, people from villages come there and ask us to expedite certain work such as sanction of a certain tank or sanction of a certain project or school building. We will be obliged to ring up the concerned officer and it will be very delicate for us to ask the villager to pay Re. 0-1-4 for the use of the telephone. It will be inconvenient and it will be delicate. So, Sir, if the Postal Department think that the revenue that they are getting from this telephone system is not what was expected form this system, they may think of other ways of enhancing the rates. I understand, Sir, even in America, where you can have a telephone in any village, the rates of rentals there are very much cheaper than what are available in India. India is a backward country in a backward economy. Government which has the sole monopoly of this postal and telegraphic department should see that the telephone is within the reach of as many people as possible. By enhancing the rate indirectly in this way, Government is going to hamper the business interests and public interests. I therefore urge upon the Government to accept this resolution and take such action as is necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Motion moved :

> "This House taking note of the difficulties caused to the public in Bangalore City by the introduction of the message rate system of telephones from 16th Mareh 1955 is of the opinion that the Government should strongly urge upon the Government of India to restore the system in vogue prior to 16th March 1955."

Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS (St. John's Hill).—I oppose this resolution, Sir. I am very sorry that Sri Mulka Govinda Reddy has spoken for 20 minutes and has not given one single argument why the new system is worse than the previous one, except that he said, the legislators in Crescent House are put to a little inconvenience. Speaking on the same subject last time, I suggested that if legislators are put to much hardship, I would even suggest that, if the House agrees, a monthly allowance, what is called the telephone allowance, may be paid to the legislators during the sessions. Barring that, I would say that in introducing the message rate system as it stands today, I feel the Government of India have done the wisest thing as opposed to the old system. And the

reason simply is this : Today the basic fee is Rs. 10 as against Rs. 24 before March 15. It was said that it hampered business because people had to pay more. Sir, if I have to call ten times instead of five times in the interest of business, the obvious conclusion is that I have more business than at a time when I used to make only five calls and if that is so, why should I not pay more ? Telephone is an instrument that I have to use only when I have an honest business. Why should I go on ringing hundred people without business, Sir ? Is that the idea of the telephone ? If we do not want any change to be introduced in any of the existing systems, we need not have fought for the Independence of India because Britishers held India for 150 years. Is that the argument ? We must always welcome an arrangement which is going to do maximum good to the maximum number of people. After all, business community constitutes a small section of people who use telephones in uro country. There is the Public Office, there are the Ministers and Secretaries who use the telephone only when necessary. Even with the basic fee of Rs. 10, they have always 180 calls at their disposal every month without increased fees. Where is the injustice of such a system, I fail to understand. Over and above that, as the Chair has rightly pointed out, we are so happy to see that our telephones are not oppressed and are not unnecessarily disturbed. There is peace in the telephone room. God bless the P. and T. Department for this change ! In view of all this, I do not see any argument levelled by Sri Mulka Govinda Reddy to revise the system and request the Government that they must press on the Government of India to change their fees. He also said that the Hon'ble Minister for Industries agreed that it hampered business interests and to bring pressure upon the Government of India in this behalf. As far as I remember, I was also there and I know what he said. I think he only said something to this effect . . . .

Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA (Minister for Home and Industries).—I only said that such complaints are received.

Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS.—But Sri Mulka Govinda Reddy has already committed the Hon'ble Minister to that statement.

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—It affects the business interests and therefore they have asked the Government to make representations to the Government of India.

Sri V. M. MASCARENHAS.— The Hon'ble Minister only said that as a result of your representation, he would take up the matter and bring it to the notice of the Government of India.

I personally feel, Sir, that this system must stand. In the long run, it is in the interests of the country. I can tell you my own case : Every month I used to pay Rs. 24. This month it is only 18, clear proof that I would rather have this system than the old one.

*Sri H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.—Sir, one argument is effectively answered by the argument of the other. As I have already said, this is a new system and it is too early to say whether this system is working in any way detrimental to the interests of either the business community or the public. This is a matter that requires yet to be examined. What I said the other day, if I remember correctly, is : there is a feeling as expressed in the columns of the Press and also by some members of this House that this system has a tendency to hamper the effective discharge of the duties of either the business community or the public work. I therefore feel, and I have made the position very clear even the other day, that this is a Central subject and it may not be proper to pass any resolution and tell them that this system is bad. I therefore even expressed the other day : "if it is the intention of this House, Government will inform the Post and Telegraph Department that there is some section of the public, however small, who feel that this system has worked detrimentally to their interests". Nothing prevents Government to convey this view,—not as the view of the Government, but as the view of a particular section of the public,—that

(SRI H. SIDDAVEERAPPA.)

they have felt that this system has not been working quite satisfactorily. That is what I said. Even now I have no objection to inform the Government of India that there is a section of opinion like that. What may be the result of that, is a different matter. It is my experience also during this short period that telephones are used now in a more business-like manner than earlier. Opinions may differ.

In view of this and in view of the fact that my Hon'ble friend's opinion does not seem to commend universally to the House, I would request him to withdraw his resolution, and leave the matter to me. I shall intimate the Government of India that there is a feeling like that.

Sri T. MARIAPPA (Mysore City — North).—We shall wait for some time—some six months.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Government have promised to bring this matter to the notice of the Government of India after six months. What does the Hon'ble Member want to do with the Resolution ?

Sri Mulka GOVINDA REDDY.—I beg leave to withdraw the resolution, Sir.

The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.

RESOLUTIONS.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Now Resolutions will be taken up. I want to bring to the notice of this Hon'ble House, there are a large number of resolutions ; we have to cover as many resolutions as possible. I therefore request Hon'ble Members to be beief in their speeches. Only one or two members will speak on the Resolutions and the Minister concerned will reply.

First resolution stands in the name of Sri C. T. Hanumanthaiya.

No. 1. Amount to be earmarked for Depressed Class Amelioration.

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿ. ಟಿ. ಹನುಮಂತಯ್ಯ (ಪಾವಗಡ-ಅನುಸೂಚಿತ ಜಾತಿಗಳು).—ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಈ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದೆ ಮಂಡಿಸಲಕ್ಕೆ ಸಭೆಯವರ ಅನುಮತಿಯನ್ನು ಬೇಡುತ್ತೇನೆ :—

"ನಿಮ್ನ ವರ್ಗದವರು ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕಟ್ಟಿ ಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ, ಮನೆಯ ನಿವೇಶನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡುಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ತಮ್ಮ ಗೃಹ ಕೈಗಾರಿಕೆಗಳನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ಆ ಮೂಲಕ ತಮ್ಮ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ, ಸಾಮಾಜಿಕ, ನೈತಿಕ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಉತ್ತಮಗೊಳಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ, ಅನುಕೂಲವನ್ನು ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಮತ್ತು ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿ ವೇತನಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡಲು ಅವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸುವುದಕ್ಕೆ ಈ ಸಾಲಿನ ಬಜೆಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ಈ ಸಭೆಯವರು ಅಭಿಪ್ರಾಯಪಡುತ್ತಾರೆ."

10 A.M.

ಸ್ವಾಮಿ, ಈ ನಿರ್ಣಯವನ್ನು ಸಭೆಯ ಮುಂದಿಡುತ್ತಾ ಕೆಲವು ಅಂಶಗಳನ್ನು ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಗಮನಕ್ಕೆ ತರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಪ್ರತಿವರ್ಷವೂ ಹರಿಜನರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ಸರ್ಕಾರದವರು ಹತ್ತೊಂಭತ್ತು ಲಕ್ಷ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಮೀಸಲಾಗಿಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಅದೂ ಕೂಡ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ವಿನಿಯೋಗವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದರಲ್ಲಿ ಕೊಂಚ ಭಾಗವನ್ನು ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಹರಿಜನರಿಗೆ ಸೌಲಭ್ಯಗಳನ್ನೊದಗಿಸಲು ವಿನಿಯೋಗಿಸುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಮುನ್ನೂರು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೊಡಬೇಕೆಂದು ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿ ಇದೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಅದನ್ನೂ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅದಕ್ಕೆ ಬದಲಾಗಿ 150, 200, 225 ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಮಾತ್ರ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾರೆ. ಏಕೆ ಹೀಗೆ ಮಾಡುತ್ತೀರಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಬಾಕಿಯಾದುದನ್ನು ಬೇರೆಯವರಿಗೆ ಕೊಡುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆದರೆ ಮುನ್ನೂರು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಪೂರ್ತಿಯಾಗಿ ಪಾವತಿಯಾಗದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲ. ಹೆಂಚು, ತೀರು, ಇವುಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಸಹಾಯ ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಕೆಲವು ಕಡೆ ಮನೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಕಟಕಿ, ಬಾಗಿಲು ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗಿ ದೊರೆಯಬೇಕಾದ ಸಹಾಯ ದೊರೆಯದಿದ್ದರೆ ಮನೆ ಪೂರ್ಣವಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಒಟ್ಟಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನೂರು ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪಾವತಿ ಮಾಡದೆ ಕಂತುಗಳ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಮೊದಲು ನೂರು ಆಮೇಲೆ ಎಪ್ಪತ್ತೈದು ಹೀಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮನೆಯ ಕೆಲಸ ಆದ ಹಾಗೆಲ್ಲಾ ಕೊಡುತ್ತಾ ಬರುತ್ತೇವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಇದರಿಂದ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಸಹಾಯ ನೀಡಿದರೂ ಹರಿಜನರಿಗೂ ಸರಿಯಾದ ಸಹಾಯವಾಗುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಅವರು ಸಾಲ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾದ ಪರಿಸ್ಥಿತಿ ಬರುವೆ. ಹಳೆಯ ಮನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಟ್ಟರು. ಹೊಸ ಮನೆ ಕಟ್ಟಲು ಅನುಕೂಲ ಸಾಕಾದಷ್ಟು ದೊರೆಯುತ್ತಿಲ್ಲ. ಕಟ್ಟಿರುವ ಮನೆಗಳೂ ಕೂಡ ಎಷ್ಟೋ ಕಡೆ ಬಿದ್ದುಹೋಗಿವೆ. ಒಂದು ಸಾಲನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಹಣ ಕೊಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಆ ಸಾಲನಲ್ಲಿ ಪುನಃ ಕೊಡಲು ಹಣ ಮುಗಿದುಹೋಯಿತೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಮುಂದಿನ ಸಾಲನಲ್ಲಿಯಾದರೂ ಕೊಡಿ ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದರೆ ಹಾಗೆ ಕೊಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಿಲ್ಲವೆಂದು ಹೇಳುತ್ತಾರೆ. ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕಛೇರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಹಣ